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THE

PLOTTER

COMPUTING THE FUTURE--
IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY

SWAP MEET

The MAY meeting will be:

on: SUN., MAY 5, 1991

OPEN 10:00 AM to 4:00 P.M.
in: COMMUNITY ROOM
    FAR WEST FEDERAL BANK
    OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

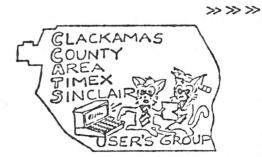WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS ISSUE:

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

(a.k.a. a turn in the barrel)

Only a few of the member's re
sponses have been received so far
but there seems to be a feeling tha
what we've been doing all these year
(here comes that preposition ending.
is what we should be doing more o
These are the things like discussir
the problems that members run int
during the course of doing thei
usual home computing. When one rur
into a problem, he/she wants to knc
that if they bring up the problem a
the meeting, there will surely be
response from someone with experi
ence with the same problem.

Another facet to the club as w
have seen and has been mentioned i
some of the letters, is that we hav
gained friends and associates throug
our mutual interest. The group w
have formed seems to be one that i
friendly, informative, patient, er
pathetic, knowledgeable and still er
thusiastic after all these years.

It is also the opinion of th
members that we should make an effor
to add to our membership by welcomir
users of DOS-type machines. We ma

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CLACKAMAS
COUNTY
AREA
TIMEX
SINCLAIR
USER'S GROUP

indeed have an advantage in that we may appeal to the newer users who might be reluctant to join a group of DOS experts for fear of not being up to the standard. In our group there can be no worry in that respect for we acknowledge our talents are less than professional. Most of us still admit that we don't know all there is to learn about our 1000's and 2068's, much less to being experts in DOS.

One suggestion given by more than one member is that we try to get the business part of the meeting over quickly and then have SEGs (Special Education Groups) meet in different parts of the room so that they can concentrate on the particular machine they are interested in at that moment. Most of us have more than one machine and have different problems to deal with at different times.

There is also one other thing to be mentioned here: Rod Gowan has nurtured most of us through our learning stages, indeed, he is still tutoring me in my fight to learn to use my DOS machine and every once in a while a bit on the 2068. We all owe something to him. I, for one, want to see the club to continue to support him as he has supported us all these years.

APRIL MINUTES

The April 12 meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Chairman Jack Armstrong. The meeting was at the Far West Bank.

Old business was started with a discussion of the swap meet for May 5. It will be on that Sunday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the regular community room at the Far West Federal Bank at the Oregon City Shopping Center. It was decided that the swap meet would take the place of the May business meeting.

An affirmative vote was cast for the organization new name, CLACKAMAS COMPUTER APPLIED TRAINING SOCIETY. Dick Wagner is to develop new first and last pages for THE PLOTTER, incorporating the name changes.

Rod Gowen distributed equipment lists (4 pages) to members for each member to inventory computer equip-

ment. The idea is to make a master list of all of the equipment owned by members. As most members seemed to be agreeable to selling some equipment, interested buyers could be informed of equipment available through such a list. Members are to complete their lists and get them to Rod no later then May 15 so he and Dick can assemble the master list.

A guest, Mike Graham, was introduced. Mike said he was interested in obtaining a QL computer.

Jack remarked that he still needs replies to his request for guidance in directing the activities of the group. He will inventory the suggestions so we can discuss them at a future meeting.

Merlin Raymond is to write up a review of a PC Grammer Checker program he has.

On a question about connecting a 2068 and a IBM clone so data could be moved from one to another, Rod brought up the need for any data to be in ASCII format. This could be moved by direct serial ports without the need for modems.

On question, Rod remarked that the LARKEN spell checker was unfinished and would not be completed. Apparently Larry Kenny has given up on the project so Tasword users will need to find some other solution.

There was further discussion on spell checkers for PCs as there seem to be quite a few types available.

As August is normally a combined meeting with July, Rod suggested a pot luck dinner meeting for August 11. There is the possibility that more people would be in attendance for a Sunday evening dinner. Bob Evans is to make arrangements with the manager of Steeve's Mobile City for use of the community building. The suggested time was 5:00 PM with dinner at about 6:00 PM.

The March minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Dick Wagner, Secretary

2

ZXir QLive Alive!
Kick-off Announcement

SNUG is DEAD!
        Long LIVE T/SNUG!

If you feel as I do,
                READ ON!

If a doctor saw no life in a body for six months he would presume that body was dead! If our user group doesn't hear from another user group for six months we presume it is dead and we cease to exchange newsletters with it. We have waited long enough for the leaders of SNUG to MOVE but they haven't! Do you all remember "Lead, follow or get out of the way!"?

The folks at the helm presently must not be thought of as BAD, they just don't have the time to devote to this undertaking. Therefore, let us not chase them away as we will need their help, let's just ask them to step aside and let us get moving. As Larry Kenny points out all the time "being negative causes destruction and lose. The SNUG officers are fine men, they are just overloaded.

Since SNUG was supposed to be US, the SINCLAIR community, WE must be the ones to get it MOVING!

We have a MAN WHO IS WILLING and HAS the SPUNK to motivate OTHERS who will MOVE. That man is Don Lambert of AUBURN, INDIANA, formerly of CRAGIST, the newsletter of the CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA group. T/S user groups, let's give Don his head, as you would let go of the restraints of a horse, and LET HIM TAKE YOU HOME, that is, to a place that gives you a warm feeling!

What I am proposing here is that WE allow Don to be the CHAIRMAN of a NEW organization called T/SNUG, the Timex/Sinclair NorthAmerican Users Group, and then, ask each

T/S users group to motivate a VICE-CHAIRMAN from their group to add their names to the list of vice-chairman for the purpose of maintaining activity in T/SNUG. The present conventional officer set-up of SNUG makes no sense! The president has to call meetings and have the other officers present. For a continent wide outfit, HOW? How can you vote them out?

A good number of T/S users are retired and have talent. Let's get this show on the road and use that talent!

If Don took the reigns as Chairman, and other men took a vice-chairmanship for other tasks, Don would not have to wait on others to get an OK to move from a few officers, he could move on his own from what he gets from a pool of about 20. Also, Don has most of the equipment. What say we give him a try? At first he will be the whole thing, but as each member group adds to the list of vice-chairman willing to do some task, this thing can grow.

Don would put out a newsletter at least four times a year.

Don would see to it that software libraries were built up and listed in the newsletter periodically.

Don would build a list of every known T/S user in North America and make it available to all user groups.

The T/SNUG newsletter would always be available on BBS so that all the INFO(could be downloaded.

The T/SNUG newsletter would also include printings of vender catalogs FREE to the VENDERS.

CATUG did offer SNUG newsletter help and SNUG did not take it, we offered BBS help and SNUG did not take it. Don will accept help from all of us.

How do we give this a try? Find

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someone in your group who is retired and willing to send copies of your newsletters to Don in hard copy and 5 1/4" disk in one of the formats he mentions in his letter and see what he does with it. A small check of encouragement would be nice to get this moving. As for FUNDS? They would be in the future the same as for SNUG and if SNUG has any left on hand now, they could forward those funds to Don eventually. Don must not do this out of his own pocket, for sure, his wife would kill him!

As for a mailing list, if Don can't obtain a list from SNUG, he can build a new list from the user groups.

If you feel as I do, talk this over with your user group, find a vice chairman for T/SNUG and have him or her get in touch with Don.

Many thanks to Al Feng for the newsletter name, ZXir QLive Alive! It expresses the wish of many to keep the ZX/TS/QL family of computers going for decades to come.

Bob Swoger, Representative
Chicago Area Timex Users Group

T/SNUG Information

ZXir QLive Alive! is the newsletter of T/SNUG, the new Timex/Sinclair NorthAmerican Users Group. We are committed to put out at least four newsletters a year. For an annual contribution of $12.00 for individuals or $15.00 for user groups you can become a T/SNUG member with full membership privileges. We will earn your support! For now, send your contribution to:

DON LAMBERT
ZXir QLive Alive Newsletter
1301 KIBLINGER PL
AUBURN IN 46706

T/SNUG, the Timex/Sinclair NorthAmerican Users Group, wishes to have chairman from every North American users group who will take charge of sending us your user groups news letters and other correspondence. If you desire to reprint any articles that appear here, please provide credit to the author and this newsletter.

We encourage your user group to copy this newsletter and distribute it at your regular meetings to your members.

Articles appearing in this newsletter can be obtained by downloading this newsletter from our BBS. You may reprint it using this means if you wish.

ZXir QLive Alive!
ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like to contribute an article to the newsletter, upload a file to our BBS called TSNUG.ART . If you have an AD for the newsletter UPLOAD a file called TSNUG.ADS. If you have NEWS to POST about your group, UPLOAD a file called POST.NWS .

If you need help contact the SYSOP by mail, E-MAIL on the T/SNUG BBS, or by phone:

BOB SWOGER
613 PARKSIDE CIR
STREAMWOOD IL 60107-1647

It is preferred that you call:
H708/837-7957 or W708/576-8068

If you can only contribute hard copy or disk format, send your inputs to:

DON LAMBERT
ZXir QLive Alive Newsletter
1301 KIBLINGER PL
AUBURN IN 46706

It is preferred that you call:
H219/925-1372 before sending.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

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BITS & BYTES
by: Rod Gowen

In this column I try to bring you the latest and complete information and news available to me regarding the world of TS computing. One way that I can accomplish this is if I have the support of you, the reader, in collecting news that may be of interest to other readers. If you have any news, rumors or other tidbits of information that fits this description, why not send it along? We will be watching!

ZEBRA GRAPHICS ON DISK-
are still not in! We do not know what the holdup is, but we will keep you informed as to the progress of this package.

LOGICALL STILL NOT IN-
RMG wants you to know that, if you are waiting for this software to become available, we have not for= gotten you, we will let you know just as soon as it is in.

SNUG IS DEAD - LONG LIVE T/SNUG!-
As you will be able to tell from reaing other articles and pieces elsewhere in this newsletter, we have a new opportunity to get some- thing going that will keep our support base alive and perhaps even growing over the next few years! Be sure to read and digest these pages and let us know what you think of the proposals and the idea in general. Your input is needed!

SWAP MEET NEXT TIME!-
If you have some old unused computer equipment in the closet or want to see if you can find a bargain in the same sort of merchandise, you will want to attend our swap meet on May 5, 1991, at our regular meeting place. This will be a SUNDAY and our hours will be from 10 AM - 4 PM. This should give all interested parties time enough to stop in and look around. We will look forward to seeing you there!

CCAT/S NAME CHANGE-
is now definite. It is now officail. The new name is CLACKAMAS COMPUTER APPLIED TRAINING SOCIETY.

This allows us to keep the same initials to simplify the change. We voted at the April meeting and it was virtually unanimous. We will be making a few changes in the news- letter to reflect the new name.

POT LUCK DINNER MEETING PLANNED-
for our August meeting. Tentatively set for the second Sunday in August. We discussed having it at the community hall at the mobile home park where Bob Evans set up our meeting in March. There will be more discussion on this at our next 2 meetings. Hope that you will want to attend and help out.

That's if for now!
See you next time. . .

RANDOM NUMBERS ON THE 2068

Most computers using some form of BASIC language provide the ability to generate random numbers. Readers who have used random numbers in programs recognize that random numbers are usually in intergers (whole numbers), but the program may not require it. This is because the random number generator produces a range of numbers between 0 and something less than 1 (a very small something). The 2068 computer has a number generator that produces 873 numbers from 0 to 872, all between >0 and <1.

The numbers generated by RND are always the same set of 873 numbers. RANDOMIZE n starts the next RND number. If the reader types 10 print RND and runs it, the smame number will be displayed each time. The trick is to start the generator with RANDOMIZE n with any number greater than 0 and less than 65537. The reason that n is greater than 0 is that 0 is reserved for a special seeding process.

For a test, key in this program
```
 10 RANDOMIZE n
 20 PRINT RND
```
and run it with different n values. Try it several times with the same value of n and the repeat of each random number will be obvious. Now try n=872 and a number close to

0.99905396 is displayed. This is the largest number I could find. Next try n=873 and the display will be almost 0, my reading was 0.00018310547. These are close to the limits for the generator, it just recycles with larger numbers up to 65536 and the same range of 873 numbers are available.

There is a logical sequense to the numbers generated for RND. The equation is RND=(75*(n+1)-)/65536 where n ranges from 0 to 872. All numbers produced are less than 1.

When an interger is used by keying INT, the number is a whole number by rounding down. Thus adding 1 will bring it back to the required number. An example is where 6 is required as a result of RND calculation. So INT(RND*6)+1 will give a number of 6 because the largest number, 0.9990536 multiplied by 6 will give 5.9943273 when rounded down and 1 added equals INT 6. The smallest RND number that will give 6 this way is about 0.83311462. Thus there are a range of numbers that will give INT 6. In fact for this example there are about 45 numbers in the generator that will! I have found that for some calculations RND is not always duplicated exactly. In this example RANDOMIZE 728 and then PRINT RND*6 should give 5.0055542. This is because 728 is the smallest number that will seed RND and produce INT 5 in this manner. This was easy to find by trial and error using the equation for RND previously given.

Should the reader wish to interigate all of the numbers available for seeding RND use this program:

```
10 FOR n=1 TO 872
20 PRINT (75*(n-1)+1)/65536
30 NEXT n
```

The reader has probably noticed that RANDOMIZE 0 has not been addressed. RANDOMIZE 0 is a special case so it is not to be used for starting RND in the ordinary way. RANDOMIZE 0 will force the generator into a very acceptable set of random numbers that will not be duplicated except under very rare chance. The computer keeps track of the number of video frames sent out up to 65537 since start up, or from a POKE 23670,0 and POKE 23671,0 to reset, or from starting over after reaching 65537. A video frame takes 0.16 milliseconds, or 0.00016 seconds.

How about a simple program that flips a coin for HEADS or TAILS? This should be a good example of random if enough test are run.

```
 10 LET h=0: LET t=0
 15 REM h is for HEADS and t is for TAILS
 20 RANDOMIZE 0
 30 FOR N=1 TO 200
 40 LET r = RND
 50 IF r <.5 THEN LET h = h+1
 60 IF r =>.5 THEN LET t = t+1
 70 PRINT AT 0,5;"HEADS";" ";h
 80 PRINT AT 0,20;"TAILS";" ";t
 100 PAUSE 20
 110 NEXT n
```

This programs self runs for 200 loops, posting the number of times HEADS and TAILS have come up. Lines 50 and 60 set up the range of numbers produced by RND. This does not require an integer number.

A fair consistency of times for HEADS and TAILS will be shown. Because of the small test base of 200 there will be variations.

Now that the explanation of RANDOMIZE, and RND has been given, the readers should be able to produce a program for a guessing game. Guess what the computer has flipped, HEADS or TAILS, and keep a tally of the wins and losses. Send a copy of your program to me at our mailing address and maybe it will get into our newsletter.

Dick Wagner

GRAPHICS BY JACK DOHANY

the plotter
pc page
by: Rod Gowen

We are back again to help you cope with DOS. Are you using straight MS-DOS, PC-DOS, DR-DOS or perhaps 4DOS? We want to be able to help you with any of the above. We can give you first hand information on 3 or the 4. The only one that we have no direct experience with is DR-DOS. The editor of our newsletter, Dick Wagner, is the only one that I know that has been using it. Perhaps we will put upon him to write a short piece on the subject at some future time. In the meantime, I will do my best to cover the others as you request or I see fit.

This time I am going to continue with our trip into 4DOS country. Last time I covered the basics of this replacement for COMMAND.COM. This time I am going to cover what I think is perhaps the most powerful command in the package: the SELECT command. I have by no means mastered all that this new use of an existing DOS command has to offer in 4DOS, but I am using it daily to ease the work that I do in DOS. If you will follow along now, I will try to show you how it can be used to make life in DOS easier for you as well. If any of you find other/better ways to use any of the commands that I am going to cover in this as well as future columns, please feel free to send us a short piece and we will print it. We want to pass it along to our readers.

The SELECT command, as I have been using it, is used in conjunction with the other commands available to you in 4DOS. If, for instance, you want to COPY just a few "selected" files from a subdirectory or disk to another subdirectory or disk. You would enter the command: SELECT COPY "A:*.*" B: This would allow you select the files that you want to copy from A: to B: by "tagging" the files to be copied and then executing the copy. After you enter the command you will be presented with the SELECT screen which allows you to pick the files you want to work with by pressing either the "+" or the "-" as you highlight each file with the cursor bar. After you have made your selections you simply press ENTER and the particular command being used will be executed. In this case, the COPY command will be executed on the files you have selected. I am including a PRTSCN of the SELECT screen for you to see here:

```
 32 chars  | ↑ or ↓ Selects | + Marks  - Unmarks | ENTER to run | Page  1 of  3
list (*.*) |                |                    | Marked:    1 files      1K
 .              <DIR>         2-09-91   23:54
 ..             <DIR>         2-09-91   23:54
 ARTICLE          335         3-18-88   19:42
 BRADDEMO        2901         3-19-88   16:07
 BRADFONT.COM   13636         3-19-88   18:10
 BRADFORD.COM   32242         3-19-88   17:50
 CHART.BF2       2944         3-08-88   17:21
 CHART2.BF2      8192         3-15-88   22:10
 CHART2H.BF2     8320         3-15-88   22:13
 CONFIG.BF        482         3-19-88   17:57
 DIGIT.BF2       2688         2-07-88   22:27
 DIGIT2.BF2      6912         2-07-88   22:28
 EXTEND.BF2      2432         2-07-88   22:23
 FX               128         1-29-88   17:19
 GREEK.BF2       2560         2-07-88   22:29
```

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GRID	2931	3-19-88	18:00
IDIGIT.BF2	2816	2-19-88	16:11
INTRO	160	3-18-88	19:12
IORATOR.BF2	2816	3-09-88	16:59
IPIZZA.BF2	2816	2-07-88	22:23
IPIZZA2B.BF2	7296	3-08-88	1:12
IPIZZAW.BF2	4096	2-07-88	22:24
ISELECTW.BF2	4608	3-08-88	10:21

What I think makes this command so powerful is the fact that it can be used with almost any other command. You can use it with the COPY, MOVE LIST, DELETE, ERASE or FIND commands. After a bit of experimentation you will be using it as I am, on a daily basis. Isn't it easier to use this method than to have to type in an individual filename for each file that you want to MOVE, COPY or read? I sometimes find it difficult to remember all of the filenames that I want to work with if the list is a long one. I mentioned the LIST command last time and again this month. The LIST command is to be used in place of the TYPE command. Using TYPE with the MORE command will allow you to read a text file, but can you scroll up and down, page up or down? NO! With LIST you have all of those options plus the FIND function. This is a quick way to browse through a disk manual or doc file for a program.

The syntax is just a bit different for using the SELECT function with the other commands. To use it with COPY, you would use: SELECT COPY (A: B:. You can see that the main difference is the addition of a "destination" to the end of the command. For the MOVE command you would have to do the same thing. For the DELETE and ERASE commands you would do the same as you did with the LIST command. Why not take a few moments and play with this powerful new tool available to you when you are using 4DOS?

Are you gaining from this? I hope so. I would sure hate to think that I am spending my time to put all of this down and no one out there cares. I like to think that I am contributing to the good of our readers by passing on what I have learned.

Next time I will be continuing with a couple of other cmmands from 4DOS. If there is one that you would like to have help with, please feel free to let me know. I will do my best ot explain any command that I am familiar with. Maybe together we can learn more than we can separately.

See you all next time. Try to make it to the Swap Meet in May!

BOOK REVIEWS

Newer users of MS DOS and DR DOS should find the book "Getting The Most From Utilities On The IBM PC" by Robert Krumm very helpful. Mr. Krumm speaks and writes the layman's language as he first started using computers for teaching at the Public School level some years ago. He now teaches at microComputer School, Inc. He has had many magazine and journal articles published.

The book cover carries this message: This guide to utility programs is valuable for both beginners and experienced users alike. The most popular programs are documented in a "hands-on" style, with numerous examples of their use and detailed product information that allows a reader to compare utilities and decide which ones best fit his or her needs. ≫ ≫ ≫

Readers will find the first 80 pages to be helpul in just understanding what MS DOS is about, and instructional enough to to use the utilities covered by this book. These 80 pages go into "What You Need To Know" and Working With Dos Commands". This is part 1.

Part 2 covers Norton Utilities and other DOS enhancements. PC TOOLS is one he does not cover. Users of XTREE will find a useful explanation of this utility, how to start it, display examples and modes, searches, commands, functions, Keys, directory commands, file commands, tagging files, for example. As for each utility described, a summary of XTREE is given.

Part 3 covers keyboard enhancements, such as macros and macro enhancements. He covers many aspects of the F keys, and in conjuncion with Ctrl and Alt keys.

Part 4 goes in to the background utilities and printing utilities. These 3 parts are applicable to the specific utilites covered by the author. However, the information is great for comparing with utilities in use or contemplated, such as shareware and freeware. For example, an understanding of the keyboad enhancement program, ProKey, will give a good comparison for any similar utility.

Specific utilities are ProKey, Superkey, Recall, SmartKey, Sidekick, Spotlight, DeskSet, and Turbo Lightning.

Published by Prentice Hall Trade, "A Brady Book", and available from Book Warehouse at Lincoln City (Factory Outlet Complex). The price for paper back, 500 pages, good paper, and fine printing, plus lots of examples, is $5.99.

Another book of interest to BASIC users is one sold at Radio Shack stores, Graphic and Sound (for PC compatibles), by William Barden Jr. Priced at $7.95 for 260 pages.
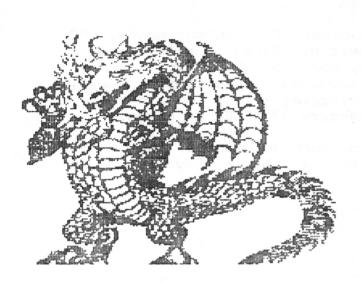
This is a combination Tandy and IBM type computers book that explains GW BASIC relative to graphics and sound. The chapters are logically laid out, starting with explanations of colot, sound, resolution, etc.

The remaining 23 chapters cover text characters, screen layout, real world coordinates, graphics commands, setting points, using the LINE command, drawing circles, ellipses and curves, using the DRAW statement, painting with color, application of the GET and PUT statements (remember a past issue of The Plotter on this subject?) windows and view commands, sound and music, point graphs, bargraphs and histograms, digitizing and image storage, symbol generation, font generation, 3 dimenenional graphics, animation, assembly language graphics, interupted music and making sound, how to program games, using graphic printers, and graphics and sound subroutines.

This book takes the reader back to the 2068 learning days when we explored many if it's features. Have some fun and do it again with this book. Put those MS-DOS utilities and word processor programs aside get back to BASICS.

Dick F. Wagner

—NOTICE—

Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of members of the Clackamas Computer Applied Training Society User Group. Meeting minutes carry the consensus of members present at meetingS. This newsletter nor staff will not be held liable for any damage or consequences due to following instructions, or review of products as contained in this newsletter.

GRAPHICS BY JACK DOHANY

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